

Local Authority Governors Qualifying Criteria and Disqualification information

Qualifying Criteria

All potential local authority nominees should meet the following criteria:

- Have good communication and interpersonal skills
- Have the ability and willingness to work as a team member and be able to accept the collective responsibilities of the governing board
- Act in a professional, positive and supportive manner
- Understand and respect the principles of confidentiality
- Have expertise or life experience which will contribute to the success of the school e.g. business/professional expertise or experience as a school governor or other voluntary role
- A passion for school improvement and raising standards to enable every child to achieve their potential

You should be prepared to commit to the following:

- Attendance of at least one full governing board meeting each term
- Be willing to join at least one governing board committee which will involve attending another a minimum of one meeting per term
- Be willing and able to undertake school visits during the day on occasions and at least once per year
- Attendance and active participation in the New Governor Induction training
- Undertake a skills audit at least annually and attend additional training as deemed appropriate
- Be prepared to work with other governors by contributing to the work of the boards, increasing knowledge and understanding of the role of the governing board in securing school improvement
- Undertake an Enhanced DBS
Be committed to supporting children to achieve their potential
- Recognise that the purpose of the governing board is to help the school provide the best possible education for its pupils
- Be willing to act at all times in accordance with the principles laid down by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (the Nolan Committee) i.e. selflessness integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership
- Be committed to the promotion of equal opportunities for all members of the school community

Governing boards (or anyone authorised to act on their behalf) may at any time make suggestions of persons they regard as worthy of consideration for nomination as a Local Authority Governor. In such cases, the formal application form must be completed by the nominee who will be subject to the full process.

Disqualification information

Department for Education: The Constitution of governing bodies of maintained schools. Statutory guidance for Governing Bodies of maintained schools and local authorities England (August 2017) provides the Qualifications and disqualifications (regulation 17 and Schedule 4 to the Regulations)

Grounds for disqualification fall into three broad categories:

- general grounds;
- grounds that apply to particular categories of governor; and
- grounds that arise because of particular failings or actions on the part of the governor

All the grounds for disqualification apply also to associate members except that associate members can be registered pupils at the school and can be under 18.

General grounds

- Registered pupils cannot be governors.
- A governor must be aged 18 or over at the time of election or appointment.
- A person cannot hold more than one governor post at the same school at the same time

Grounds that apply to particular categories of governor

- A person is disqualified from being a parent governor if they are an elected member of the LA or paid to work at the school for more than 500 hours (i.e. for more than one-third of the hours of a full-time equivalent) in any consecutive twelve-month period at the time of election or appointment.
- A person is disqualified from being a Local Authority governor if they are eligible to be a staff governor at the school.
- A person is disqualified from being a partnership governor if they are:
 - a parent of a registered pupil at the school;
 - eligible to be a staff governor at the school;
 - an elected member of the local authority; or
 - employed by the local authority in connection with its education functions.

Grounds that arise because of particular failings or actions on the part of the governor

- A person is disqualified from being a governor of a particular school if they have failed to attend the meetings of the Governing Body of that school for a continuous period of six months, beginning with the date of the first meeting they failed to attend, without the consent of the governing body. This does not apply to the headteacher or to foundation governors appointed by virtue of their office.
- A foundation, local authority, co-opted or partnership governor at the school who is disqualified for failing to attend meetings is only disqualified from being a governor of any category at the school during the twelve-month period starting on the date on which they were disqualified.

A person is disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a governor of a school if, in summary, that person:

- is the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order; an interim bankruptcy restrictions order; debt relief restrictions order; an interim debt relief restrictions order; or their estate has been sequestrated and the sequestration has not been discharged, annulled or reduced.
- is subject to a disqualification order or disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986; a disqualification order under the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 2002; a disqualification undertaking accepted under the Company Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002; or an order made under section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 (failure to pay under county court administration order).
- has been removed from the office of trustee for a charity by an order made by the Charity Commission or Commissioners or High Court on grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity, or under section 34 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 from being concerned in the management or control of any body.
- has been removed from office as an elected governor within the last five years.
- is included in the list of people considered by the Secretary of State as unsuitable to work with children or young people.
- is barred from any regulated activity relating to children.
- is subject to a direction of the Secretary of State under section 142 of the Education Act 2002 or section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008.
- is disqualified from working with children or from registering for child-minding or providing day care.
- is disqualified from being an independent school proprietor, teacher or employee by the Secretary of State.
- subject to certain exceptions for overseas offences that do not correlate with a UK offence has been sentenced to three months or more in prison (without the option of a fine) in the five years ending with the date preceding the date of appointment/election as a governor or since becoming a governor.
- subject to certain exceptions for overseas offences that do not correlate with a UK offence, has received a prison sentence of two and a half years or more in the 20 years ending with the date preceding the date of appointment/election as a governor.
- subject to certain exceptions for overseas offences that do not correlate with a UK offence, has at any time received a prison sentence of five years or more.
- has been convicted and fined for causing a nuisance or disturbance on school or educational premises during the five years ending with the date immediately preceding appointment/election or since appointment or election as a governor.
- refuses a request by the clerk to make an application to the Disclosure And Barring Service for a criminal records certificate.

Anyone proposed or serving as a governor who is disqualified for one of these reasons must notify the clerk to the governing body.